

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-24 and add new claims 25-47. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Preliminary Amendment are presented as follows:

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) A sole for footwear comprising:

- a toe part being made of a substantially inflexible material;
- a ball part being made of a flexible material; and
- an instep-heel part being made of a substantially inflexible material.

26. (New) The sole according to claim 25, wherein the toe part is made of a composite material of carbon fiber in a thermoplastic resin.

27. (New) The sole according to claim 26, wherein the instep-heel part is made of a composite material of carbon fiber in a thermoplastic resin.

28. (New) The sole according to claim 27, wherein the ball part is made of a composite material of aramid fiber in a thermoplastic resin.

29. (New) The sole according to claim 25, further comprising a plurality of spikes attached to the toe part.

30. (New) The sole according to claim 25, wherein the sole is made of a plurality of first sections and second sections arranged alternately, wherein the first sections and the second sections are made of different materials.

31. (New) The sole according to claim 30, wherein the first sections are made of a substantially inflexible material and the second sections are made of a flexible material.

32. (New) The sole according to claim 31, wherein the substantially inflexible material is a composite material of carbon fiber in a thermoplastic resin.
33. (New) The sole according to claim 31, wherein the flexible material is a composite material of aramid fiber in a thermoplastic resin.
34. (New) An article of footwear comprising:
a sole having a toe part, a ball part, an instep part, and a heel part;
an open toe section;
an instep section having two instep side supports, the instep side supports being connected to the instep part of the sole and otherwise being open; and
a heel section.
35. (New) The article of footwear of claim 34, wherein the heel section comprises two heel side supports and an end heel support, wherein the two heel side supports and the end heel support are connected at a first end to the heel part of the sole and are connected to each other at the other end.
36. (New) An article of footwear comprising:
a sole having a toe part, a ball part, an instep part, and a heel part;
an open toe section;
an instep section; and
a heel section, wherein the heel section has two heel side supports and an end heel support, and the two heel side supports and the end heel support are connected at a first end to the heel part of the sole and are connected to each other at the other end.
37. (New) The article of footwear of claim 36, wherein the instep section has two instep side supports, the instep side supports being connected to the instep part of the sole and otherwise being open.

38. (New) The article of footwear of claim 37, further comprising an upper instep section.
39. (New) The article of footwear of claim 38, wherein the upper instep section is attached to the instep side supports by means of adjustable ties.
40. (New) The article of footwear of claim 36, further comprising a plurality of spikes mounted on an underside of the toe part of the sole.
41. (New) The article of footwear of claim 36, further comprising one or more straps attached to an upperside of the toe part.
42. (New) The article of footwear of claim 36, wherein the article of footwear is an athletic shoe.
43. (New) A method for the manufacture of an article of footwear comprising:
a first step of placing at least one ply of a first material in a toe part and an instep-heel part of a mould;
a second step of placing at least one ply of a second material in a ball part of the mould, wherein the first material and the second material overlap at seams;
a third step of placing at least one ply of a third material in the toe part and the instep-heel part of the mould; and
a fourth step of curing the first material and the second material to form the article of footwear.
44. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the fourth step of curing the material involves baking the article of footwear under pressure.
45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the first step comprises a step of placing at least two plies of the first material in the toe part and the instep-heel part of the mould.

46. (New) The method of one of claims 43, wherein the third step comprises the step of placing at least two plies of the second material in the toe part and the instep-heel part of the mould.

47. (New) The method of one of claims 43, further comprising a step of placing spikes in the mould prior to the first step.